



Dear Citizens,

Today, people across the state are preparing for an increase in their electricity bills. The higher rates being charged to by BG&E will hit the pockets of everyone – rich and poor – in their next bill. I know that this will be a difficult adjustment for many families and individuals in Baltimore.

Since we do not expect relief to come from the state, this week, the city began accepting applications from individuals interested in studying solutions to our electricity rate crisis. Specifically, we are going to investigate the feasibility of the City of Baltimore selling electricity to citizens (also known as electricity aggregation.)

Cities around the nation have created electricity cooperatives for their residents, and it is my hope that this may be one of several practical solutions for Baltimore as well.

In the meantime, it is important for residents to begin to conserve energy. This is not easy, especially in a typical Baltimore summer, but it is not impossible.

But, as always in the summer, the people most vulnerable to rising temperatures are children and the elderly. To help alleviate the burden on them and other citizens on the hottest days of the year, the city Housing Department will open 6 cooling centers throughout the city and in 4 senior centers. Each cooling center will offer air-conditioned space and cold water for citizens in need.

I urge every resident of Baltimore to be aware of the heat, to look out for yourself, your family and your neighbors. If you have concerns, please call the city's 311 line. For more tips and advice about protecting yourself from heat, visit the [Baltimore City Health Department](#).

The higher electricity rates and typically hot summer present a challenge for the people of Baltimore, but I believe we can improve our situation with a combination of cooperation, ingenuity and conservation.

As always, I am interested in what you think about our plan to make our city a dynamic place to LIVE, EARN, PLAY and LEARN. Please [email me](#) your comments or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Sheila Dixon
Mayor
Baltimore

Volunteers Needed for Artscape!

July 20-22, 2007

Artscape, the largest arts festival in the mid-Atlantic region, is in need of volunteers like you to make the festival a success! Volunteers are needed in a wide variety of areas, including the Artist Market, Art Galleries, Family Art Park, Hospitality Areas, and many others.

As a thank you, all volunteers receive one free parking pass, one free t-shirt, refreshments, and access to indoor restrooms and air conditioning!

If you are interested in volunteering for Artscape, please email BOPAvolunteer@promotionandarts.com.

Baltimore Farmers' Market

Sundays Under the JFX

Baltimore Farmers' Market:

Everyone is invited to enjoy this one-of-a-kind shopping experience at economical prices. While strolling the market, guests can revel at the sight of the large quantity of the freshest fruits and vegetables, eggs, a variety of breads from Maryland area farmers, and delight in homemade treats. In addition, food vendors add spice to the market with cultural cuisine, popular pit beef sandwiches, pastries, cheese, and gourmet treats.

Sundays, May 6 - December 23, 2007
8am to sellout, approximately noon

Holliday and Saratoga streets underneath the Jones Falls Expressway

Activities for the Whole Family

Special Events All Around Baltimore

The Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks offers activities for city residents and guests - educational hikes and walks, sports leagues, youth and senior activities, and fun for the family.

Please visit [Rec & Parks' Events Calendar](#) for dates and times.



TV25: How Baltimore sees itself

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